Appendix table 7-45.
Users of public information on an annual basis: 2001

Characteristic	Average number of visits per year: Science museum	Public library	Sample size (number)
All adults	3	10	1,574
Male	3	9	751
Female	3	12	823
Formal education			
Less than high school	2	6	116
High school graduate	2	10	834
Baccalaureate	4	14	393
Graduate/professional	4	18	221
Science/mathematics education[a]			
Low	2	7	674
Middle	3	13	469
High	4	15	431
Attentiveness to science or technology[b]			
Attentive public	4	13	195
Interested public	3	11	755
Residual public	2	9	624
Access to cable/satellite TV			
Cable and satellite	2	14	42
Cable	3	10	991
Satellite	2	9	253
Neither[c]	2	11	286

[a]Respondents were classified as having a "high" level of science/mathematics education if they took nine or more high school and college science/math courses. They were classified as "middle" if they took six to eight such courses and "low" if they took five or fewer.

[b]To be classified as attentive to a given policy area, an individual must indicate that he or she is "very interested" in that issue, is "very well informed" about it, and a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine. Individuals who report that they are "very interested" in an issue area but do not think that they are "very well informed" about it are classified as the "interested public." All other individuals are classified as members of the "residual public" for that issue. The attentive public for science and technology combines the attentive public for new scientific discoveries and the attentive public for new inventions and technologies. Any individual who is not attentive to either of those issues but who is a member of the interested public for at least one of those issues is classified as a member of the interested public for science and technology. All other individuals are classified as members of the residual public for science and technology.

[c]Includes respondents who reported that they did not watch any television.

NOTE: A few respondents did not provide information about their highest level of education. Responses are to the following statements:
I am going to read to you a short list of places and ask you to tell me how many times you visited each type of place during the last year, that is, the last 12 months. If you did not visit a given place, just say none.
–A natural history museum?
–A zoo or an aquarium?
–A science or technology museum?
–A public library?

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF/SRS), NSF Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, 2001.